

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 6, 2000

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 13, 2000

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1512**

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**Introduced by Senator Hayden**

February 16, 2000

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An act to add Division 22.7 (commencing with Section 32550) to the Public Resources Code, relating to the Los Angeles River Advisory Commission.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1512, as amended, Hayden. Los Angeles River Advisory Commission.

Existing law requires the Secretary of the Resources Agency to implement and enforce various environmental protection laws in the state.

This bill would establish the Los Angeles River Advisory Commission in the Resources Agency for the purpose of promoting the restoration and revitalization of the Los Angeles River. The bill would require the advisory commission to serve as a public advisory body, and participate in decisions concerning the expenditure of state resources and funds for the revitalization and restoration of the Los Angeles River watershed. The bill would prohibit the advisory commission from serving as an advisory body regarding any portion of the lower Los Angeles River that is under the jurisdiction of a conservancy, if that conservancy provides for public participation. The bill would prescribe the membership and duties of the advisory commission. The bill

would require the Secretary of the Resources Agency, in consultation with the advisory committee, to establish a cooperative working group with the County of Los Angeles and other federal and local government agencies with jurisdiction over the Los Angeles River watershed.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Division 22.7 (commencing with  
2 Section 32550) is added to the Public Resources Code, to  
3 read:

4  
5 DIVISION 22.7. LOS ANGELES RIVER ADVISORY  
6 COMMISSION  
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8 32550. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all  
9 of the following:

10 (a) The state is expending a significant amount of  
11 public funds and resources for projects and conservancies  
12 whose goal is the restoration and revitalization of the Los  
13 Angeles River watershed for use for environmental and  
14 recreational purposes.

15 (b) There is a significant amount of public interest in  
16 improving the Los Angeles River watershed in ways that  
17 will yield all of the following:

18 (1) Environmental benefits, including the protection  
19 of habitat for wildlife, and groundwater recharging  
20 possibilities.

21 (2) Social benefits, including greater recreational  
22 open-space, cultural, and aesthetic opportunities.

23 (3) Economic and community development benefits,  
24 including an improved quality of urban life.

25 (c) River restoration and revitalization efforts are  
26 completely compatible with flood control, which can be  
27 achieved through traditional channeling as well as  
28 through retention basins, conservation zoning, and  
29 greater open space for rainfall absorption.



(d) The interested public, including state and local public officials, has an essential role to play in shaping public policy pertaining to the restoration of the Los Angeles River watershed.

32552. (a) The Los Angeles River Advisory Commission is hereby established in the Resources Agency for the purpose of promoting the restoration and revitalization of the Los Angeles River. The advisory commission shall serve as a public advisory body, and shall participate in decisions concerning the expenditure of state resources and funds for the revitalization and restoration of the Los Angeles River watershed.

(b) The advisory commission shall not perform any of the functions described in this chapter with respect to any portion of the lower Los Angeles River that is under the jurisdiction of an existing conservancy, if that conservancy provides for public participation.

~~(e) The advisory commission shall be comprised of 13 members, appointed by \_\_\_\_\_, and the Secretary of the Resources Agency shall serve as the chair of the advisory commission.~~

(c) *The advisory commission shall have 13 members, consisting of the following persons:*

*(1) The Secretary of the Resources Agency, or a member of his or her executive staff, designated by the secretary, who shall serve as chair.*

*(2) The Executive Officer of the Coastal Conservancy, or a member of his or her executive staff, designated by the executive officer.*

*(3) The Executive Officer of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, or a member of his or her executive staff, designated by the executive officer.*

*(4) The Director of Fish and Game, or a member of his or her executive staff, designated by the executive officer.*

*(5) The Director of Parks and Recreation, or a member of his or her executive staff, designated by the director.*

*(6) Two elected Los Angeles County officials, selected by the Governor from a list of at least five persons*

1 submitted by the Los Angeles County Board of  
2 Supervisors.

3 (7) One elected Los Angeles City official, selected by  
4 the Governor from a list of at least three persons  
5 submitted by the Los Angeles City Council.

6 (8) Two elected officials from the Cities of Calabasas,  
7 Burbank, Glendale, La Canada-Flintridge, Pasadena, or  
8 other cities that may be formed within the Los Angeles  
9 River watershed, selected by the Governor, to serve on  
10 a rotating basis, to ensure adequate and fair  
11 representation of all city interests.

12 (9) Three representatives of environmental  
13 organizations whose organizations have a demonstrated  
14 interest in the restoration and enhancement of the Los  
15 Angeles River and its watershed. Interested  
16 organizations may submit their list of nominees to the  
17 Secretary of the Resources Agency, and the secretary  
18 shall choose the representatives from that list.

19 (d) The Secretary of the Resources Agency, in  
20 consultation with the advisory commission, shall establish  
21 a cooperative working group with the County of Los  
22 Angeles and other federal and local government agencies  
23 with jurisdiction over the Los Angeles River watershed.  
24 The secretary may also establish one or more interagency  
25 working groups for the various jurisdictions within the  
26 Los Angeles River watershed.

27 (e) The advisory commission shall do all of the  
28 following, subject to the limitation of subdivision (b):

29 (1) Promote public education, awareness, and  
30 advocacy for the environmental and civic issues affecting  
31 the Los Angeles River.

32 (2) Hear public comment and make  
33 recommendations to the Secretary of the Resources  
34 Agency regarding the most effective utilization of state  
35 resources for restoration projects in the Los Angeles  
36 River watershed.

37 (3) Participate and make comments on any  
38 state-assisted general planning for the conservation and  
39 restoration of the Los Angeles River watershed.

(4) Assist and provide advice to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the State Coastal Conservancy regarding projects funded with state funds within the Los Angeles River watershed.

32554. The advisory commission may do any of the following:

(a) Publish educational materials.

(b) Conduct hearings and public forums.

(c) Carry out other activities that serve the goal of increased public awareness concerning the conservation and restoration of the watershed.

32556. The Secretary of the Resources Agency shall assign public policy experts and administrative personnel as are necessary to assist the advisory commission in carrying out its functions and duties, as required by this division.

32558. Meetings of the advisory commission shall be held in accordance with Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120), Chapter 1, Part 1, Division 3, Title 2, Government Code), and shall be held at times and locations within the watershed that are convenient to members of the public.